

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 08371 271957Z

15

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 MC-02 ACDA-10

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 /089 W

----- 020669

R 271853Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7823

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 08371

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, BE, US

SUBJECT: FN-PRATT & WHITNEY F-16 CONTRACT

1. FABRIQUE NATIONALE-PRATT & WHITNEY CONTRACT WAS SIGNED ON AUGUST 24 AT FN HEADQUARTERS IN HERSTAL. UNLIKE SIGNING IN MID-JULY WITH FAIREY AND GENERAL DYNAMICS, FN CONTRACT SIGNING ATTRACTED LARGE AUDIENCE, INCLUDING VAN BELLINGHEN, CHEF DE CABINET, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; COESSENS, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS; ANDRE, CHEF DE CABINET TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WALLOON REGIONAL ECONOMY; TORELL, GROUP PRESIDENT, PRATT & WHITNEY AIRCRAFT GROUP; COL. DECLERCK OF THE BELGIAN AIR FORCE, IN CHARGE OF F-16 PROJECT OFFICE; WILLEKENS, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SABCA; TYLEE, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FAIREY; AND CLARKSON, VICE PRESIDENT AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, F-100 PROGRAM IN EUROPE. US REPRESENTATION WAS HEADED BY CHARGE.

2. BELGIAN PRESS WAS WELL REPRESENTED BY SOME 26 NEWS-PAPER PEOPLE, AND ASKED SEVERAL POINTED QUESTIONS AFTER THE PRESENTATION BY COMPANY OFFICERS. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS WERE VERY WELL HANDLED, INCLUDING EXPRESSION OF OPTIMISM BY SENIOR FN OFFICIAL ON PROSPECTS FOR SIGNING OF US CONTRACT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 08371 271957Z

WITH BELGIUM FOR THE M-58 GUN. FN HAD JUST THAT MORNING

RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT THE GAO REPORT PRESENTED TO US COURT HAD STATED THAT THE US HAD NOT VIOLATED ANY LAW OR REGULATION IN THE DECISION TO BUY THE BELGIAN GUN. PRATT & WHITNEY SPOKESMAN (CLARKSON) ALSO EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE ON OUTLOOK FOR SUBSTANTIAL THIRD-COUNTRY ORDERS AND REITERATED US COMMITMENT FOR 650 F-16 PLANES.

3. SIGNING RECEIVED WIDE AND FAVORABLE BELGIAN NEWSPAPER COVERAGE. PUBLICITY ON FN CONTRACT APPEARS TO GO A LONG WAY TO OFFSET PREVIOUS UNFAVORABLE STORIES ON DIFFICULTIES IN ATTAINING CO-PRODUCTION ON F-16 PROGRAM IN BELGIUM. IT WAS PARTICULARLY WELL TIMED TO UNDERCUT FORGED LETTER OF VANDEN BOEYNANTS ALLEGING FAILURE OF US TO HONOR ITS CO-PRODUCTION COMMITMENT ON THE F-16.

4. BECAUSE OF FAULTY FABRIQUE NATIONAL PRESS RELEASE, THERE IS SOME CONFUSION IN THE PRESS AS TO WHETHER THE 28.4 BILLION FRANCE CONTRACT COVERS ONLY THE INITIAL AND FIRM ORDERS FOR 438 (348 PLUS 90 SPARES) ENGINES FOR CONSORTIUM COUNTRIES, OR WHETHER IT MUST BE STRETCHED TO COVER THE 625 ADDITIONAL ENGINES WHICH MAY BE PURCHASED BY US AND BY THIRD COUNTRIES. BURSON AND MARSTELLER, PR COMPANY FOR PRATT & WHITNEY IN BRUSSELS, HAS DRAFTED CLARIFYING RELEASE AND SUBMITTED IT TO PRATT & WHITNEY IN US FOR APPROVAL. RENNER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, CONTRACTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BRUSSE08371
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760328-0720
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760814/aaaaalkq.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: harterdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 AUG 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <16 DEC 2004 by harterdg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FN-PRATT & WHITNEY F-16 CONTRACT
TAGS: MASS, BE, US, FABRIQUE NATIONALE, PRATT & WHITNEY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006